

Appl. No. «SerialNumber»
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 27 July 2005

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 7-20 are newly added.

The applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The Office action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Liebetreu et al. (USP 5,949,832, hereinafter Liebetreu). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-5 depend, claims a method of tuning a receiver that includes fine-adjusting a center frequency of at least one filter in dependence on a digital figure of merit. In like manner, claim 6 claims a receiver that includes a controller that adjusts a center frequency of a filter in dependence on a digital figure of merit.

Liebetreu does not teach tuning a receiver by adjusting a center frequency of a filter based on a digital figure of merit. Liebetreu teaches adjusting the bandwidth of filters of a phase-locked-loop:

"A digital data receiver includes a tunable analog matched filter having a variable bandwidth responsive to the bit error rate (BER) of the decoded data. The bandwidth of the analog filtering circuit is controlled by a tuning control signal...the state machine increments or decrements the value of the fine tuning signal, which in turn alters the filter bandwidth." (Liebetreu's Abstract)

Liebetreu characterizes the prior art as teaching a fixed-bandwidth analog filter that is used to filter a signal after it is down-converted to an IF signal, and notes the deficiencies associated with fixed-bandwidth filters. Thereafter, Liebetreu teaches a method of adjusting the bandwidth of the filters 20, 21 in an IF filter stage, based on a decoded digital figure of merit (bit-error rate). Liebetreu uses the digital figure of merit to adjust a bandwidth of an IF filter, and does not use it to tune a receiver by adjusting the center frequency of a filter.

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Because Liebetreu does not teach tuning a receiver by adjusting the center frequency of a filter based on a digital figure of merit, as specifically claimed by the applicants, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Liebetreu.

In the interest of advancing prosecution of this application, the following remarks are submitted with regard to newly added claim 13, upon which claims 14-20 depend.

Claim 13 claims a method that includes filtering an RF input signal via one or more RF filters to provide a filtered RF signal, and adjusting at least one of the RF filters based on a figure of merit associated with a decoded digital signal.

Liebetreu specifically addresses the filtering of a signal based on the digital figure of merit after it has been down-converted to an IF signal, and does not teach filtering the RF signal based on this figure of merit.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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